

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-18, including independent claims 1, 8, and 9, were pending in this application prior to the Office Action of June 13, 2007. In the Office Action, all of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over either Chapman et al. (USP 5,581,084), or Chapman et al. in view of Fuji et al. (USP 4,982,096). Also, claim 11 was objected to for including the term “separation point” and claims 14 and 15 did not include an antecedent basis for “the filling material.” Claims 3 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the amendments and arguments herein are respectfully requested.

In the present Amendment, the allowable claims have been rewritten in independent form. Specifically, the limitations of claim 3 have been written into claim 1. The limitations of claim 17 have been written into claim 8. Claims 3 and 17 have been canceled.

Also, “separation point” has been amended to “a cut at a boundary between semi-conductor components” in claim 11. Support for this amendment can be found at least in ¶ 58 of the specification. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to depend on claim 11, which includes an antecedent basis for “the filling material.” Accordingly, no new matter is added by any of the amendments herein.

In addition to the above, claim 9 has been amended to include language corresponding to the allowable language of claim 3. Thus, claim 9 is believed allowable, as are the claims that depend on claim 9.

We respectfully request allowance of the amended claims as well as the claims that depend from them. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in view of the above remarks, we respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

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Respectfully submitted,



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